

Message Text

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FM USDEL SECRETARY IN DAKAR

TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTO 11241

NODIS

FOR AMBASSADOR ONLY

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: NIGERIAN ATTITUDE TOWARD SECRETARY'S VISIT TO AFRICA

REF: LAGOS 5087

1. IN ADDITION TO AGA 5037, WHICH WE BELIEVE TOO TRGELY ACCURATE, WE HAVE HEARD AT EVERY STOP, EVEN FROM SOME WHO COULD NOT BE CONSIDERED PRO-US, THAT NIGERIANS HAVE BEEN WORKING AGAINST US IN TWO WAYS:

(A) WHERE APPROPRIATE, URGING COUNTRIES VISITED EITHER TO CANCEL OR TO BE WARY OF SECRETARY'S VISIT;

(B) GENERALLY CASTING DOUBT ON MOTIVATIONS BEHIND SECRETARY'S TRIP.

2. FURTHERMORE THERE ARE VARIOUS REPORTS OF NIGERIAN DELEGATIONS, OTHER THAN GARBA HIMSELF, TRAVELING TO VARIOUS AFRICAN COUNTRIES. PURPOSES SUCH TRAVEL NOT CLEAR BUT THEY APPEAR TO BE UNUSUALLY PERIPATETIC ACTIVITY.

3. IN ALL CANDOR WE CANNOT PROVIDE ASSURANCES YOU SUGGEST IN PARA 6 REFTEL BECAUSE THEY APPEAR TO BE SIMPLY UNTRUE. WE ACCEPTED AT FACE VALUE NIGERIAN REASONS FOR POSTPONING SECRET-
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ARY'S TRIP BUT INFORMATION WE HAVE RECEIVED SINCE THEN ARGUES THAT THEY HAVE ACTIVELY WORKED AGAINST TRIP. FACT THAT GARBA HAS NOT SEEN SOVIET AMBASSADOR DOESN'T MEAN A THING.

4. WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS THAT WE ARE WORKING FOR U.S. INTERESTS, WHICH WE BELIEVE LARGELY COINCIDE WITH THOSE OF INDEPENDENT AFRICA, AND NOT TO ASSSGE NIGERIAN SENS TIVITIES. WE ATTACH GRAT IMPORTANCE TO OUR RELATIONS WITH NIGERIA BUT BEING DEFENSIVE AT A TIME WHEN THEY SEEM TO BE OPPOSING US DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE PRODUCTIVE. IN CASE OF GHANA, FOR INSTANCE, OUR TOUGH REACTION HAS PUT GOG ON DEFENSIVE AND IT NOW APPEARS THAT THEY ARE HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS EVN TO THE EXTENT OF SENDING CONCILIATORY LETTER TO PRESIDENT FORD.

5. NIGERIA MAY BE SEEKING TO DIVERT ATTENTION FROM ITS SHAKY AND UNCERTAIN INTERNAL SITUATION BUT, IF THIS IS THE CASE, NOTHING WE DO IS LIKELY TO HAVE MUCH EFFECT.

6. WE HAVE DEMONSTRATED BY SECRETARY'S AFRICAN TRIP AND THROUGH HIS MAJOR STATEMENTS IN LUSAKA AN MONROVIA OUR UNDERSTANDING OF AFRICAN CONCERNS AND OUR DETERMINATION TO WORK WITH THEM FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF COMMON GOALS. WE SHOULD BE STRONGLY DEFENDING U.S. POSITION AND POLICIES AND NOT APOLOGIZING. YOU SHOULD MAKE CLEAR THAT WE HAVE SERIOUS QUESTIONS ABOUT NIGERIAN ACTIONS. WE CAN LISTEN TO NIGERIANS BUT SHOULD CONCEDE NOTHING.

7. REQUEST WITHIN 48 HOURS REPORT AND ANALYSIS OF CURRENT NIGERIAN DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY IN AFRICA AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE IN TERMS U.S.-NIGERIAN RELATIONS.KISSINGER

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